Mr. Bowser had been reading for an hour the other evening when he laid aside his paper and said to Mrs.

Bowser, who sat near him sewing: "I was just wondering what men do who have no homes, and how many of those who have homes ap-

preciate them as I do mine." "I am glad to know you are satis-fied with your home," replied Mrs.

"Of course I'm satisfied — why shouldn't I be? I don't believe there's a house in the state better kept than this. It is always spicspan clean, nothing is wasted, and your bump of order is something re-

"I'm awfully glad to hear you say so," replied Mrs. Bowser, as her face lighted up. "I try todomy best, but there are times when-when-"When I'm a regular old crank,"

he finished, with a laugh. ' don't let that worry you. No mat-ter how big a crank I am, you are duly appreciated. It's funny what notions a man gets into his head,

"Y-e-s," she reluctantly replied, fully realizing that he was treading

on dangerous ground.
"Ha! ha! ha! Do you remember how I tried to put down that bedroom carpet to save fifty cente? That was one of my cranky notions. And don't you remember how I tried to clean house-ha! ha! ha!"

"But we get along all right," said Mrs. Bowser, wondering how she could lead the conversation to some other subject.

"Of course we do, though there are times when I ought to be kicked for my foolishness. On the street car the other day I got to thinking about my buying that fire escape, and I laughed till everybody looked at me. Wasn't that a daisy-that fire escape—hal hal hal"

"Any news in the evening paper?" she queried, as he held his sides and

"Nothing to speak of. And don't you remember of my taking a fit to sleep in a hammock on the roof, and how one of the ropes broke one night and—hal hal hal If some of these funny men could get hold of my adventures what a lecture they could make! Have you forgotten when I took a dose of that dandruff-eradicator for spring tonic-hal hal hal" "That was funny, indeed!" laughed

Mrs. Bowser, in spite of her fears. "Funny! It was dawg-gone funny! And the time I had the grippe and thought I was going to die—hal hal ha! I expect I'm the boss crank of America, and you deserve a pension for bearing with me so patiently. Do you recall the day I came home and jawed around about the set of my collar, and you discovered that I had been wearing my night-shirt all day - ha! ba! It's a wonder that you have stood it with me as long as you have.'

'You've had a good many whims and notions, but I hope you'll reform in that direction. I expect you've thrown away three thousand dollars since we were married in indulging in your oddities."

"How thrown away?" sharply queried Mr. Bowser, as he instantly sobered up.

"Why, you've paid as high as three hundred dollars for a horse not worth fifty dollars; you've bought pigs at a high price which you had to give away; you've bought bens at two dollars apiece which never laid an

"Are you talking to me, Mrs. Bowser!" he demanded, as he rose up and stood before her.

'Why, yes," she replied. were having a good-natured talk about some of the foolish things you

have done, and 1-" "What foolish things have I done! Just name one single thing,

will you?" "Didn't you pay three hundred dollars for a horse which ran away and smashed everything and nearly killed us both the first time you drove him?" she timidly asked.

"I bought a horse for three hundred dollars. He was a beautiful animal and as gentle as a child. You opposed his purchase, and to carry out your fell designs you went out to the barn in my absence and drove tacks into him, and pounded him with the snow shovel, and otherwise abused him until he was frightened to death."

"Why, Mr. Bowser!" "Don't 'why, Mr. Bowser,' mel You have charged me with throwing away thousands of dollars foolishly. I am either a sensible man or a fool Give me an instance of my wanteful

"I-I don't think you wastefully extravagant. You simply do odd things and have cranky notions."

"I do odd things, do I? Just mention one instance, will you? I have cranky notions, have I? Just specify

one of those cranky notional"
"Wasn't it odd about your wearing your night shirt around all

"No, ma'am, it wasn't-not when the circumstances are considered. It was simply a put-up job on your part, and I won't forget it if I live to be a thousand years old! Now, about being cranky. When have you discovered any evidence that I was a crank?"

"Wasn't that fire escape a cranky idea?" she besitatingly queried.

"Net a bit of it-not the slightest! It was just such a purchase as any sensible man would make, and the only reason it is now in the garret is because you cut the ropes and atraps to pieces to display your spite. Mrs. Bowser, you have ac-complished your object!"

'W-what object?" "When you saw me taking comfort in my own home you made up your mind to spoil my evening. You have done so. I was never better natured in my life. I set out to maliciously and villainously turned the conversation into a channel to vex and degrade me. I hope you

feel better! Despite her years of married life, Mrs. Bowser bad made the mistake of specifying her husband's faults | the collec was cold and that the cook to his face, even though he voluntarily brought the matter up and ibly in the kitchen. confessed them one by one, and she now decided that silence was her enfect refuge.

"Right here in my own house and by my own wife I have been called notional, whimsical and crankyl" ex-

Mrs. Bowser plied her needle and , which was hot. made no reply. "I have thrown away millions of

dollars-I have acted the fool-I am an object of ridleule!" Mrs. Bowser continued her work

and maintained silence. "In my good nature I partially admitted that I bought a hammook for two dollars which was well worth four dollars, and what do you do but hop on to me and charge me with being the biggest fool in America! That's just the way with all wives; give 'em the slightest latitude and

husband, Mrs. Bowser!" Mrs. Bowser held her needle suspended in her hand and looked up.

they will try to walk right over the

"No wife can be happy with a fool of a husband! For the next two hours I shall be busy in the library arranging papers for the lawyers to see to-morrow! We will try and avoid scandal, and I shall allow you enough to live on comfortably until that I am not at home. Woman, good night!"-Detroit Pree Press.

SLEDGE-DRIVERS.

The Ply Their Nefarious Trade in the British Capital. Some extraordinary revelations of the doings of German swindlers in London are made in a book entitled "Knights of Industry." The volume consists of articles reprinted from the Cologne People's Gazette, and the author, himself a victim, supports his sensational assertions by incontrovertible proofs, and, in many cases, by reference to police-court convictions. These Teutonic swindlers, it seems, are known as "sledge-drivers," and their frauds are conducted on the very simplest of methods. Every penniless vag-rant who comes to London from the of his birth becomes too hot to hold him, sets up with a garret for office as an "agent," and, with the aid of glowing circulars, induces easy-going German manufacturers, auxious to establish a trade with London, to India or Africa, and, needless to she can't come." say, never paid for. These "sledgedrivers" disdain nothing, and will thought I'd just suggest it. lest you readily accept from confiding compatriots consignments of trouserbuttons, glass-eyes, sausages, live sheep, timber or organs, for all of which they find a market. Of course, played more than once or twice with | bloomers." even the least unsuspecting of tradesmen, but with the assistance bogus inquiry agents the "drivers" seem always to find fresh victims, and very frequently defraud the same dealer repeatedly under different names. Not the least remarkable statement in the book is

that twice a year the rogues hold an no room for any one "
"International congress," at which "Very well, then, th the leaders "decide upon their common action for the coming season.' From time to time, too, they visit Germany in order to get connections, and, says the writer, "their honest mien, their manuers and appearance, their liberality in spending money on good dinners and champagne, dazzle their chosen victims, who do not awake from their trance until they are taught by a heavy loss that their amiable visitor and new customer, the partner of that 'leading Loadon firm,' was nothing more or less than a German sledge-

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adelphia Record says: "Delaware not only wants a battleship name. I for her, but she wants the largest one of the whole fleet and she bases her claim upon services rendered to the United States the honor because the first battle under the American flag was fought on Delaware soil; the stomachache or diarrhosa from because the vote of Carar Rodney made possible the Declaration of Independence, and because Delaware was the first State to adopt the Constitution of the Unided States. If these arguments are not considered sufficent Delaware can search her record a little and find some other rea-

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria

DID NOT INTERTAIN.

laugh and have a good time, and you | Had She Known the Visitor It Would Have Econ Different-

> There was evidently something on his mind, for he did not even notice and housemaid were quarrefing au l-

"It can't be the dressmaker's bill." mused his wife, "for she has only sent it to me twice as yet; it will only go so his office as a last report Auyhow, if it is anything unpleasant claimed Mr. Bowser, as he walked he'd speak of it soon enough," and she poure I herself another cup of ten,

At fart he spoke: "By the way, my dear, it seems rather dreary for you alone all day in this I rge house How should you like a visitor this winter?"

"Whatever put such an idex into your head. Henry Marshmallow? I'm sure I have no time to spendin inventing amusements for a girl who would make me a stranger in my own parlor. To be sure Amy is engaged, and by coughing every time I come into the room-but then I've made all those levely new sola pillows; I can't have them ruined. Then there's 14fie-look here, Henry, had you any

one in particular in your mine?" Mr Marshmellow looked alarmed. 'Not at all, I assure you; that is, I mean-er-the lady I had in mind is quite middle-aged- elderly, in fact." Mrs. Marshmallow stiffened, "It you find another husband-one who is quite impossible. In the first place, has no faults! If anyone calls say the guest chamber is not fit to be seen, and anyhow, I don't want anybody to sleep in that lovely bed; it would spoll the set of pillows. Resides, I shall be too busy to take anybody around this winter; the house takes

> "But what I was thinking was that you might be glad of a little help in your housekeeping."

up all my time."

"That is just where you are mistaken, Henry Marshmallow; when I want any interference in my domestic affairs I'll let you know. O, yes, I know just how much she would enjoy putting a finger into my pie!" "You quite surprise me, dear; still.

you must know her better than I." "That is the first time since our marriage that you have shown any appreciation of my judgment. I'm fatherland, generally after the land glad you've learned its value at last " "O, well, I only thought to give

you pleasure." "Great pleasure, I'm sure. I only hope you haven't already invited her. If you have, I give you fair warning I forward all sorts of goods, which are either sold on arrival or exported to and have the house quantitied, so

> "O! course I haven't asked her. I didn't like to, and you d enjoy asking her yourself."

"And enjoy hearing all winter how she brought ip fifteen children with this is a game that could not be out even a sealskin jacket or a pair of E. W. EMILIE.

"Really, I was not aware that you

"Of course you were not aware of going to fit up the guest chamber as a private gymnasium and I'll have

"Very well, then, that rettles it; we'll say no more about it. I wasn't overanxious for it myselt." He was struggling into his coat as he spoke. "I only thought you would like a nice long visit from your mother, so

"My own mother! Why, I-I thought all this time you meant your mother! O, Henry, I--"

But the street door had closed and she could hear him whistling joyous ly as he went down the street.

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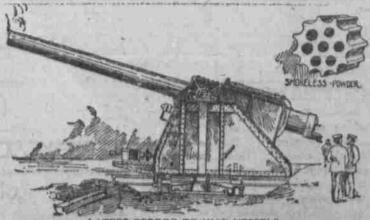
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about them. If you will get a 25c or 50c bottle of Dr. Bell's Anti-Plux that has been offered to the people they will be at play in half bour after the first dose Z. Wayne Griffin & Wayne Griffin & Bro. Read the handsome business an-

nouncements in THE REPUBLICANITOM week to week and give these mer. chants your trade who ask for it.

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